

37. AN AMENDMENT TO BE OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVE  
Capito OF West Virginia, OR Her  
DESIGNEE, DEBATABLE FOR 10 MINUTES.

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1585, AS REPORTED  
OFFERED BY MRS. CAPITO OF WEST VIRGINIA**

At the end of title X, insert the following new section:

1 SEC. \_\_\_\_ . SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING A MEMORIAL  
2 FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WHO  
3 DIED IN AIR CRASH IN BAKERS CREEK, AUSTRALIA.  
4

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

6 (1) During the Second World War, the United  
7 States Army Air Corps established rest and recreation  
8 facilities in Mackay, Queensland, Australia.

9 (2) From the end of January 1943 until early  
10 1944, thousands of United States servicemen were  
11 ferried from jungle battlefields in New Guinea to  
12 Mackay.

13 (3) These servicemen traveled by air transport  
14 to spend an average of 10 days on a rest and relaxation  
15 furlough.

16 (4) They usually were carried by two B-17C  
17 Flying Fortresses converted for transport duty.

1           (5) On Monday, June 14, 1943, at about 6  
2           a.m., a B-17C, Serial Number 40-2072, took off  
3           from Mackay Airport for Port Moresby.

4           (6) There were 6 crew members and 35 pas-  
5           sengers aboard.

6           (7) The aircraft took off into fog and soon  
7           made two left turns at low altitude.

8           (8) A few minutes after takeoff, when it was  
9           five miles south of Mackay, the plane crashed at  
10          Bakers Creek, killing everyone on board except Cor-  
11          poral Foye Kenneth Roberts of Wichita Falls,  
12          Texas, the sole survivor of the accident.

13          (9) The cause of the crash remains a mystery,  
14          and the incident remains relatively unknown outside  
15          of Australia.

16          (10) United States officials, who were under or-  
17          ders not to reveal the presence of Allied troops in  
18          Australia, kept the crash a military secret during the  
19          war.

20          (11) Due to wartime censorship, the news  
21          media did not report the crash.

22          (12) Relatives of the victims received telegrams  
23          from the United States War Department stating lit-  
24          tle more than that the serviceman had been killed  
25          somewhere in the South West Pacific.

1           (13) The remains of the 40 crash victims were  
2       flown to Townsville, Queensland, where they were  
3       buried in the Belgian Gardens United States mili-  
4       tary cemetery on June 19, 1943.

5           (14) In early 1946, they were disinterred and  
6       shipped to Hawaii, where 13 were reburied in the  
7       National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, and the  
8       remainder were returned to the United States main-  
9       land for reburial.

10          (15) 15 years ago, Robert S. Cutler was read-  
11       ing his father's wartime journal and found a ref-  
12       erence to the tragic B-17C airplane accident.

13          (16) This discovery inspired Mr. Cutler to em-  
14       bark upon a research project that would consume  
15       more than a decade and take him to Australia.

16          (17) Retired United States Air Force Chief  
17       Master Sergeant Teddy W. Hanks, of Wichita Falls,  
18       Texas, who lost four of his World War II buddies in  
19       the crash, compiled a list of the casualties from  
20       United States archives in 1993 and began searching  
21       for their families.

22          (18) The Bakers Creek Memorial Association,  
23       in conjunction with the Washington Post and retired  
24       United States Army genealogy experts Charles  
25       Gailey and Arvon Staats, located 23 additional fami-

1       lies of victims of the accident during the past two  
2       years.

3           (19) Joy Shingleton, Donnie Tenney, Wendy  
4       Andrus, and Wilma Post, the family of Army Air  
5       Corps Corporal Edward J. Tenney, of Buckhannon,  
6       West Virginia, helped to bring this recently uncov-  
7       ered World War II tragedy to light.

8           (20) The commander of the United States Fifth  
9       Air Force officially had notified the relatives of 36  
10      of the 40 victims.

11      (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
12      gress that an appropriate site in Arlington National Ceme-  
13      tery should be provided for a memorial marker to honor  
14      the memory of the 40 members of the Armed Forces of  
15      the United States who lost their lives in the air crash at  
16      Bakers Creek, Australia, on June 14, 1943, provided that  
17      the Secretary of the Army have exclusive authority to ap-  
18      prove the design and site for the memorial marker.